

## CELEBRATING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th birthday of Jackson, Alabama, which is located in Alabama's First Congressional District. Over the past 200 years, the City of Jackson has had a rich and storied history that is reflected in all of the hardworking residents of Jackson today.

Situated on a rise overlooking the east bank of the Tombigbee River is where you will find Jackson's historic downtown. In 1815, a stock company, the Pine Level Land Company, was formed by a group of investors who believed they could promote the site to attract settlers. Formerly known as "Pine Level," and "Republicville," it was finally decided that the little village would be named Jackson, in honor of General Andrew Jackson, hero of the War of 1812 as well as the Creek Indian War of 1813–14, who would later become our seventh president. Jackson was incorporated by an act of the Mississippi Territorial Legislature on November 27, 1816, which also created the town's first governing body.

Like many of our country's communities, Jackson has experienced both ups and downs throughout its history. In 1816, the prosperous Jackson had a population of 1,500, which was quite large for a rural frontier town. The town experienced growth and success through the Civil War, but then declined. By 1875, the town was home to only 15 families. With the arrival of the railroad in 1886 and the hard work and dedication of the people of Jackson, the town once again boomed. The railroad brought with it the timber industry, which was instrumental in reviving the tiny town. Throughout the early 20th century, Jackson experienced economic growth and expansion. The town experienced another setback during the Great Depression, but was sparked yet again by economic growth in the 1930s. This year is not only Jackson's 200th birthday; it is also a year that will bring even more success to Jackson with the opening of the new iSpice food manufacturing and distributing plant.

The Post Civil War Era and the Depression could have easily led to a different fate for Jackson, but the people of this quaint timber town refused to give up on their home. The hardworking men and women of Jackson are not only pillars of their community, but they also represent the true backbone of the United States. Their hard work and perseverance through troubling times serves as an example that should be followed by all Americans. Success is not given, it is earned, and Jackson has earned it throughout its 200-year existence.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Jackson on its bicentennial.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF KIRBY HIGHT

**HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join loving family members, dear friends and

the entire Skowhegan community in recognizing the 100th birthday of Kirby Hight. I am honored to extend birthday greetings on this truly special occasion.

I congratulate Mr. Hight on this major milestone but also express profound gratitude for his valiant service to our Nation as a proud member of the United States Navy.

We are forever grateful and humbled by his heroism and selflessness during World War II as a Captain of one of our naval destroyers.

Upon returning to Maine after the war, he continued to give back to his community. He developed a successful family business, gave his time to the local Rotary Club and served as a member on the board of the Skowhegan Fair Association and Redington Fairview Hospital, not to mention the numerous local causes his late wife, Grace, and he supported.

The fantastic turnout expected for his birthday celebration will be but a small testament to the magnificent impact his hard work and unwavering generosity has had on his family, community and country.

Happy 100th Birthday to Mr. Hight—I wish him many more years of continued good health and happiness. May we all be so lucky to live such a long and meaningful life. God Bless America and God Bless you, Mr. Hight.

## TRIBUTE TO MURIEL LOIS CORRIN DAVIS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of a very incredible constituent, Muriel Lois Corrin Davis. Muriel was born on February 9, 1926 in Sea Bright, New Jersey. At the age of 1, her family moved to East Orange, New Jersey. She graduated from East Orange High School in 1944 and left for Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1945. She received her B.A. in English and Spanish in 1950. An avid moviegoer, her dream was to see the world she had only seen onscreen.

After graduation in August 1950, Muriel was the first African American woman to be hired by Doubleday Publishers. Her position was Assistant Secretary in the Executive Office of Doubleday. Her courtship with Morehouse College graduate (Class of 1947) Griffith "Griff" Davis began while he lived in the Harlem home of Langston Hughes. Mr. Hughes used them as the prototype for his Simple book series.

Liberia President William V. S. Tubman commissioned Griff to do the first photography exhibit on Liberia at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the filming of Liberia's first promotional film entitled "Pepperbird Land." In March 1952, Muriel flew to Liberia to marry Griff. Their "Global Honeymoon" on three continents was written and photographed by Griff and appeared in the September 1952 issue of Ebony magazine.

Upon returning from their honeymoon, Griff took the Foreign Service exam in Washington, DC. In November 1952, they returned to Liberia as African-American pioneers in President Harry Truman's Point Four Program for foreign aid.

As the spouse of a U.S. Foreign Service Officer during the family's tours of duty in Liberia

from 1952 to 1957, Muriel was unofficially responsible for developing, cultivating and maintaining diplomatic relationships with President Tubman, key business and government officials of Liberia, citizens and high level visitors to the country: like the future Prime Minister of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah in January 1953.

Muriel was the first Bank Teller for the first indigenous bank in Liberia (Bank of Liberia) founded by her former Morehouse classmate A. Romeo Horton. She taught Early European History and Political Science at Monrovia High School. She gave birth to her two children in Monrovia: Dorothy Davis and Ben Davis.

In 1957, the family was posted to newly independent Tunisia. Muriel repeated the same unofficial diplomatic duties she had in Liberia but faced an even more multicultural and potentially hostile environment. Although women could not attend government activities, Muriel was able to meet Tunisia's first President Habib Bourguiba.

Muriel returned to New Jersey in 1959 to enroll her two children in private school. When she met the principal of The Carteret School of West Orange, he rescinded the school's initial offer for admission to her daughter, Dorothy, because she was African American. On behalf of her daughter, Muriel filed a complaint with the State of New Jersey Division Against Discrimination of the Department of Education in 1959. She won the next year. This decision enabled African Americans to attend New Jersey's private schools. In June 1967, Muriel taught pre-schoolers at East Orange Co-op Day Care Center until 1980. She became an Investigator for the Essex County Probation Department's Bail Program in Newark until she retired in 1994.

Since her retirement in February 1994, Muriel has traveled across the United States and to France, Ghana, Switzerland, Barbados and the U.S. Virgin Islands and remains friends with people from around the world. She has volunteered for several institutions including the United Black Episcopalians, the Church of the Epiphany, the United Nations International School (UNIS), and the Women's Africa Committee of the African-American Institute.

Ms. Davis is the proud grandmother of Joelle Joseph, Anne-Laure Davis and Daniel Davis. She has lived a life that makes me honored to acknowledge her 90th birthday and wish her another year of happiness.

## INAUGURATION OF THE FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

**HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my warmest congratulations to the newly elected members of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Council. Bernadine Burnett was elected to the Council as President, Pamela Mott has been reelected as Treasurer, and Gerald Doka has been reelected as Council Member. I wish them all the best as they govern the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.